

Application No.: 09/989965

Case No.: 56732US002

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 8, insert --in-- between "or" and "its":

The present invention pertains to a filtering face mask that uses a multi-layered flexible flap as the dynamic mechanical element in its exhalation valve or in its inhalation valve.

Page 1, line 23, insert --exhaled-- between "moist," and "air":

To reduce the likelihood that a wearer will remove the mask from their face in a contaminated environment, manufacturers of filtering face masks often install an exhalation valve on the mask body to allow the warm, moist, exhaled air to be rapidly purged from the mask interior. The rapid removal of the exhaled air makes the mask interior cooler, and, in turn, benefits worker safety because mask wearers are less likely to remove the mask from their face to eliminate the hot moist environment that is located around their nose and mouth.

Page 1, line 28, insert --manufacturers of-- between "commercial" and "respiratory";

Page 1, line 28, delete "used" and replace with --installed--;

Page 1, line 29, after the first occurrence of "valves", insert --on the masks--;

Page 1, line 29, delete "purge" and replace with --enable--;

Page 1, line 29, after "air", insert --to be purged--; and

Page 1, line 29, insert --the-- between "from" and "mask":

For many years, commercial manufacturers of respiratory masks have ~~[[used]]~~ installed "button-style" exhalation valves on the masks to ~~[[purge]]~~ enable exhaled air to be purged from the mask interiors. The button-style valves typically have employed a thin circular flexible flap as the dynamic mechanical element that lets exhaled air escape from the mask interior. The flap is centrally mounted to a valve seat through a central post. Examples of button-style valves are shown in U.S. Patents 2,072,516, 2,230,770, 2,895,472, and 4,630,604. When a person exhales, a circumferential portion of the flap is lifted from the valve seat to allow air to escape from the mask interior.